

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Kazuhirio SATO, et al

Appln. No.: Not Yet Assigend

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigend

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigend

Filed: January 22, 2002

Examiner: Not Yet Assigend

For: RESIN-COATED METAL SHEET, METAL CAN AND CAN CLOSURE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

3. (Amended) A resin-coated metal sheet according to claim 1, wherein said resin layer has a melt viscosity of from 2000 to 10,000 centipoises at a temperature of 260°C and at a shearing rate of 122 sec<sup>-1</sup>, and the polyester in the resin layer has an inherent viscosity (IV) in a range of from 0.6 to 1.5.

4. (Amended) A resin-coated metal sheet according to claim 1, wherein the ethylene polymer contains an ionomer resin.

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7. (Amended) A resin-coated metal can obtained by molding a resin-coated metal sheet as claimed in claim 1 in such a manner that the coated layer becomes the inner surface of the can.

8. (Amended) A resin-coated metal closure obtained by molding a resin-coated metal sheet as claimed in claim 1 in such a manner that the coated layer becomes the inner surface of the can closure.

**REMARKS**

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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**APPENDIX**

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The claims are amended as follows:

3. (Amended) A resin-coated metal sheet according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein said resin layer has a melt viscosity of from 2000 to 10,000 centipoises at a temperature of 260°C and at a shearing rate of 122 sec<sup>-1</sup>, and the polyester in the resin layer has an inherent viscosity (IV) in a range of from 0.6 to 1.5.
4. (Amended) A resin-coated metal sheet according to [any one of claims 1 3] claim 1, wherein the ethylene polymer contains an ionomer resin.
7. (Amended) A resin-coated metal can obtained by molding a resin-coated metal sheet [of any one of claims 1 to 6] as claimed in claim 1 in such a manner that the coated layer becomes the inner surface of the can.
8. (Amended) A resin-coated metal closure obtained by molding a resin-coated metal sheet [of any one of claims 1 to 7] as claimed in claim 1 in such a manner that the coated layer becomes the inner surface of the can closure.